

Supervisor Romaine, Councilwoman Bonner and Town Board Designate Tesla Laboratory in Shoreham as a Historic Landmark

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Farmingville, NY - At the May 22 Town Board Meeting, Supervisor Ed Romaine, Councilwoman Jane Bonner and the Town Board voted unanimously to designate the Tesla Laboratory in Shoreham as a Historic Landmark in the Town of Brookhaven. The property, which includes the original main building designed by famed architect Stanford White, was constructed in the early 1900s. It was purchased by the not-for profit Tesla Science Center at Wardenclyffe in May 2013 with plans to build a museum and science center. There are more than 40 Historic Landmarks located in the Town of Brookhaven.

"Nicola Tesla's legacy is rooted so deeply in Brookhaven Town and it is our obligation to help keep it alive," said Supervisor Ed Romaine. "I commend all the people who worked so hard to purchase the property and for their determination to bring this dream to fruition."

Councilwoman Bonner said, "Designating the Tesla property as a Historic Landmark moves the plan to build the Science Center that much closer to reality and I thank my colleagues on the board for their support. The groundbreaking work of Nikola Tesla has had such a great impact worldwide over the last 100 years and we must assure that his accomplishments are recognized by generations to come."

The proposed facility will be dedicated to the life and work of Nikola Tesla, who was a pioneer in the development and commercial use of alternating current electricity, radio, neon lighting and x-rays among other inventions. The efforts of the Tesla Science Center at Wardenclyffe to purchase the property became an international story after a Tesla enthusiast launched a successful fundraising effort over the internet which raised \$1.37 million in donations. They also secured a reimbursement grant of up to \$850,000 from the State of New York that helped cover the cost of purchasing the property. In addition, the Town secured a \$400,000 Parks matching grant from New York State for the property and is working with the organization on how to best to use it.

The site is located within the area covered in the Route 25A Mount Sinai to Wading River Land Use Plan, a 10.5 mile stretch of Route 25A through the hamlets of Mount Sinai, Miller Place, Sound Beach, Rocky Point, Shoreham and Wading River to the Riverhead town line. It is presently zoned A-Residence-2 (1 dwelling unit/2-acres). The Route 25A Mount Sinai to Wading River Land Use Plan allows for a transitional use consistent with the Town's J-Business District. This designation is designed to permit non-retail commercial uses while concentrating retail commercial to more appropriate areas and reducing sprawl. The proposed museum and science center is consistent with the plan which was spearheaded by Councilwoman Bonner.

For more information about the not-for-profit Tesla Science Center at Wardenclyffe, visit www.teslasciencecenter.org. To discover more historic sites in Brookhaven Town, visit www.brookhaven.org or our tourism website at www.visitbrookhaven.com.

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

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